

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and all prior versions, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. – 16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, said thickened part, and said extended part are formed integrally as one body.

18. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein each of an outer surface of said thickened part and an outer surface of said extended part, in the width direction, are coplanar.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 30, wherein during the friction stir welding, material of said thickened part and of said extended part is adapted to fill up any gaps, between said at least one plate of said extruded frame member and said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member, which exist when said extruded frame member abuts said another extruded frame member.

21. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 25, wherein said thickened part has a width that is substantially equal to a width of said extended part.

22. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein said thickened part has a width that is substantially equal to a width of said extended part.

23. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein a side surface, of the extended part, furthest from the thickened part, and a side surface of the thickened part, furthest from the extended part, extend obliquely.

24. (Currently Amended) An extruded frame member for use in a friction stir welding, said extruded frame member including at least one plate, wherein:

said extruded frame member is adapted to be arranged adjacent another extruded frame member so as to be abutted to said another extruded frame member such that the friction stir welding of said extruded frame member and said another extruded frame member can be carried out;

at least one end portion of a width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member is provided respectively with a thickened part which protrudes from a side of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a thickness direction of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extruded frame member further includes an extended part extending from said thickened part, substantially in parallel to said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, and extending beyond said at least one end portion of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a direction of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extended part of said extruded frame member is provided continuously and outwardly from said thickened part of said at least one end portion of a width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, said extended part being adapted to be subjected to friction stir welding together with at least one plate of said another extruded frame member; and

said extended part of said extruded frame member further is arranged to overlap said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member when said extruded frame member is arranged adjacent said another extruded frame member such that the friction stir welding can be carried out,

wherein said extended part is arranged to overlie said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member, relative to a direction in which friction stir welding of said extended part together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is carried out.

25. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein:

a triangular-shaped groove is formed between an outer surface of said thickened part of said extruded frame member and an outer surface of said extended part of said extruded frame member; and

the friction stir welding is carried out through said triangular-shaped groove.

26. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein said extended part of said extruded frame member is positioned at a side of said at least one end portion of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member.

27. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein said at least one plate has a surface which forms a surface of the extruded frame member, and said extended part has a surface extending from said thickened part, said surface of said extended part extending substantially in parallel to said surface of said at least one plate which forms a surface of the extruded frame member.

28. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 27, wherein said surface of said at least one plate which forms a surface of said extruded frame member is a surface exposed after said friction stir welding.

29. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 24, wherein said extended part extends upward in said thickness direction of said at least one plate to a level above a level of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member.

30. (Currently Amended) An extruded frame member for use in a friction

stir welding, said extruded frame member including at least one plate, wherein:

at least one end portion of a width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member is provided respectively with a thickened part which protrudes from a side of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a thickness direction of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extruded frame member further includes an extended part extending from said thickened part, substantially in parallel to said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, and extending beyond said at least one end portion of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a direction of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extended part of said extruded frame member is provided continuously and outwardly from said thickened part of said extruded frame member;
said extended part of said extruded frame member further is arranged to overlap at least one plate of another extruded frame member when said extruded frame member is arranged adjacent said another extruded frame member such that the friction stir welding can be carried out, said extended part being adapted to be subjected to friction stir welding together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member;

at an end portion of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member and under said extended part of said extruded frame member, said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is adapted to be positioned adjacent said extruded frame member; and

said end portion of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member is adapted to be abutted to an end side of said at least one plate of said another

extruded frame member, for carrying out the friction stir welding of said extruded frame member and said another extruded frame member,

wherein said extended part is arranged to overlie said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member, relative to a direction in which friction stir welding of said extended part together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is carried out.

31. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 30, wherein said at least one plate has a surface which forms a surface of the extruded frame member, and said extended part has a surface extending from said thickened part, said surface of said extended part extending substantially in parallel to said surface of said at least one plate which forms a surface of the extruded frame member.

32. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 31, wherein said surface of said at least one plate which forms a surface of said extruded frame member is a surface exposed after said friction stir welding.

33. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 30, wherein each of an outer surface of said thickened part and an outer surface of said extended part, in the width direction, are coplanar.

34. (Previously Presented) An extruded frame member according to claim 30, wherein said extended part extends upward in said thickness direction of said at least one plate to a level above a level of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member.

35.-38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) Structure comprising said extruded frame member according to claim 24, and said another extruded frame member.

40. (New) Structure according to claim 39, wherein said extruded frame member is abutted to said another extruded frame member.

41. (New) Structure according to claim 40, wherein said extruded frame member and said another extruded frame member have been extruded respectively in first and second directions; and in said structure having the extruded frame member and the another extruded frame member abutting each other, the first direction is perpendicular to the second direction.

42. (New) Structure according to claim 41, having had friction stir welding carried out on abutting portions of the extruded frame member and the another extruded frame member, so as to form a friction stir weld between said abutting portions.

43. (New) An extruded frame member according to claim 42, wherein said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, said thickened part, and said extended part are formed integrally as one body.

44. (New) Structure according to claim 43, wherein the friction stir welding has been carried out on the extended part, a remaining part of the extruded frame member and the another extruded frame member.

45. (New) Structure according to claim 44, wherein said remaining part of the extruded frame member includes said thickened part.

46. (New) Structure according to claim 44, wherein said remaining part of the extruded frame member includes said at least one end portion.

47. (New) Structure according to claim 44, wherein said extended part is positioned outside of an outer surface of the extruded frame member.

48. (New) Structure according to claim 44, wherein said extended part is positioned such that a rotary tool for conducting the friction stir welding enters the extended part, before entering the another extruded frame member.

49. (New) Structure according to claim 40, having had friction stir welding carried out on abutting portions of the extruded frame member and the another extruded frame member, so as to form a friction stir weld between said abutting

portions.

50. (New) Structure according to claim 42, wherein the friction stir welding has been carried out on the extended part, a remaining part of the extruded frame member and the another extruded frame member.

51. (New) Structure according to claim 50, wherein said extended part is positioned outside of an outer surface of the extruded frame member.

52. (New) Structure according to claim 50, wherein said extended part is positioned such that a rotary tool for conducting the friction stir welding enters the extended part, before entering the another extruded frame member.

53. (New) An extruded frame member for use in a friction stir welding, said extruded frame member including at least one plate, wherein:

said extruded frame member is adapted to be arranged adjacent another extruded frame member so as to be abutted to said another extruded frame member such that the friction stir welding of said extruded frame member and said another extruded frame member can be carried out;

at least one end portion of a width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member is provided respectively with a thickened part which protrudes from a side of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a thickness direction of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extruded frame member further includes an extended part extending from

said thickened part, substantially in parallel to said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, and extending beyond said at least one end portion of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a direction of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extended part of said extruded frame member is provided continuously and outwardly from said thickened part of said at least one end portion of a width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, said extended part being adapted to be subjected to friction stir welding together with at least one plate of said another extruded frame member; and

said extended part of said extruded frame member further is arranged to overlap said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member when said extruded frame member is arranged adjacent said another extruded frame member such that the friction stir welding can be carried out wherein said extended part is arranged to overlie said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member, relative to a direction in which friction stir welding of said extended part together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is carried out,

wherein said thickened part is a part that only protrudes above said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, relative to a direction in which friction stir welding of said extended part together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is carried out.

54. (New) An extruded frame member for use in a friction stir welding, said extruded frame member including at least one plate, wherein:

at least one end portion of a width of said at least one plate of said extruded

frame member is provided respectively with a thickened part which protrudes from a side of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a thickness direction of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extruded frame member further includes an extended part extending from said thickened part, substantially in parallel to said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, and extending beyond said at least one end portion of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, in a direction of the width of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member;

said extended part of said extruded frame member is provided continuously and outwardly from said thickened part of said extruded frame member;

said extended part of said extruded frame member further is arranged to overlap at least one plate of another extruded frame member when said extruded frame member is arranged adjacent said another extruded frame member such that the friction stir welding can be carried out, said extended part being adapted to be subjected to friction stir welding together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member;

at an end portion of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member and under said extended part of said extruded frame member, said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is adapted to be positioned adjacent said extruded frame member; and

said end portion of said at least one plate of said extruded frame member is adapted to be abutted to an end side of said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member, for carrying out the friction stir welding of said extruded frame member and said another extruded frame member wherein said extended

part is arranged to overlie said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member, relative to a direction in which friction stir welding of said extended part together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is carried out,

wherein said thickened part is a part that only protrudes above said at least one plate of said extruded frame member, relative to a direction in which friction stir welding of said extended part together with said at least one plate of said another extruded frame member is carried out.